

CHAPTER II

LITERARY REVIEW

2.1 Previous Research

Deconstruction is a reading strategy which is applied in this research to find information in answering the research problem. Therefore, this research necessitates finding and reading references dealing with deconstruction in analyzing. Here are some references that are found:

Wahyuningsih (2007) in her research *Rejection of the Assumption of Human Rights in America in 'Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'*, uses deconstruction theory to analyze the assumption of Americans towards black people in the novel. She discovers some information by deconstructing the Americans' assumption of human rights towards black people in the novel. It carries the same approach and theory with the research – objective approach and deconstruction theory. As a reference, it does help to do this research.

Pulido (2011) in her research *Saving the Savior: A Deconstruction of the Novel 'Viajero' by F. Sionil Jose*, makes use of deconstruction theory to discover the hierarchy oppositions in the novel, then she tries to explain that none of the binary oppositions are higher or privileged than another, but dependent one to other. Finding the hierarchy opposition in the novel is required process before deconstructing. That is reason of taking her research as reference.

Araya (2008) in her research *Deconstruction and Figurative Language: an Analysis of the Way Language Works*, has a notion that every kind of figurative language is a deconstruction towards structuralism philosophy. Figurative language is expressive that has multiple meaning depending on the readers' social background. At second hand, she denies structuralism opinion concerning with logocentrism in figurative language.

Those researches/references give much information about the approach, theory, and method. Since they are very crucial things that are needed to do this research.

2.2 Deconstruction

Main figure of deconstruction is Jacques Derrida, he was born in El-Biar, Algeria on July 15, 1930 – and became a literary critics and philosopher in France. He released his three influential books in 1967; those are *Of Grammatology*, *Speech and Phenomena*, and *Writing and Difference* (Sarup, 2004: 51). Those books are used to read any kind of text – literature and non-literature. Derrida's Deconstruction is a trial to quake philosophy fundamentals. As Charles Bressler explains,

“With the advent of deconstruction, Jacques Derrida's poststructural view of the world in the mid-1960s, modernity's understanding of reality is challenged and turned on its head. For Derrida and other postmodernists, no such thing as objective reality exists. For these thinkers, all definitions and depictions of truth are subjective, simply creations of the minds of humanity. Truth itself is relative, depending on the various cultural and social influences in one's life. Because these poststructuralist thinkers assert that many truths exist, not one, they declare that modernity's concept of one objective reality must be disavowed and replaced by many different concepts, each being a valid and reliable interpretation and construction of reality.” (Bressler, 1999: 118)

In other word, poststructuralist theories such as deconstruction definitely demolish the logocentric idea – the belief that there is a center of truth or reality – that has dominated all human behaviour and interaction, especially in western culture.

“Reality becomes a human construct that is shaped by each individual’s dominant social group. There is no center and no one objective reality, but as many realities as there are people. Each person’s interpretation of reality is necessarily different. No one has a claim to absolute truth; therefore, tolerance of each other’s points of view is the postmodern maxim.” (Bressler, 1999: 119)

Derridian deconstruction always starts from un-thought or may not be thought things. That is why deconstruction rejects that language has definite meaning as structuralists assume. There is no idiom or any form of language which has a certain meaning. Structuralism is regarded as something systematic and even as ‘the science of sign’, but post-structuralism rejects that view.

Meanwhile, purpose of deconstruction theory is to show the fail attempts of presenting absolute truth, Derrida unwrapped concealed schema which contains many weakness and lameness behind the texts (Norris, 2006: 13). Deconstructing a discourse is to confirm how to collapse its based philosophy, or to oppose hierarchically towards its fundamental by identifying symbol operational forms inside the texts, it may produce foundation argument as a main concept. In other word, deconstruction refuses general meaning that is considered as it exists in a literary text.

For example, there is a sentence said, “Indonesian government is bad.” Readers must be wondered why Indonesian government is bad, and why it is said. ‘Good’ or ‘bad’ are in their mind, so that makes the text *undecidable*. In reading a

text, we can not be separated from ‘absence’. Through deconstruction, readers may have chances to read whatever unsaid inside the text. Derrida sensed it has been many decades ago that ‘writing’ is under ‘speech’; he said that western philosophers prefer ‘speech’ to ‘writing’ term. ‘Writing’ is useless if there are no authors and readers. If the ‘speech’ needs a presence of speaker and listener, so the ‘writing’ needs absence and deferment then it creates ambiguity.

There are two key words of deconstruction which take a big role in analyzing the ‘Angels & Demons’ novel. Those are repositioning hierarchy of binary opposition and *differance*. It is explained that Saussure structuralism specializes ‘speech’ and marginalizes ‘writing’. Two poles exist; those are opposite – *high* and *low*. This is what usually known as binary opposition. The hierarchy of binary opposition is clarified in a schema below:

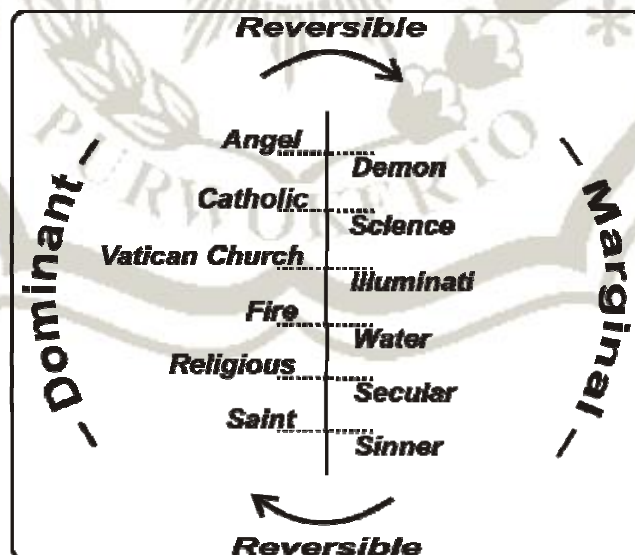


Illustration 1: Schema of Deconstruction by Reversing Hierarchy

If the schema above is read structurally, it may results: words in the right side are on high hierarchy, while words in the left are on low hierarchy, in other words, the right side is dominant and the left is marginal. This is case that is criticized by Derrida. He saw the bipolar line as a reception towards text naming. According to his opinion, the dominant is existed by existence of marginal. As a result, both can be reversed one to another – dominant to marginal; marginal to dominant.

Second key word is *differance*. Its point means to defer, postpone, or delay an unavailable word/object. *Differánce* (same pronunciation as difference) covers two definitions; first is 'to differ' which means 'to be not like or alike', second is 'to defer' which means 'to postpone or delay'.

It can be clarified that *differance* is a game between *difference* (English word) and *différance* (France word). The way to pronounce *différance* is same as *difference*. So which is different? Derrida created *différance* as deconstruction towards Saussure structuralism that specialize 'speech'. Derrida stated that *différance* can only be understood through 'writing', not 'speech'. Since the merger between *difference* and *différance*, he created something new by putting alphabet *a* as an escape from common definition. So, it can be stated that *différance* is a reconstruction from deconstruction reading. In conclusion, language is reflexive, not mimetic; with deconstruction we will never stop finding meaning in a text, even though we have read it once or a hundred times (Bressler, 1999: 132).

2.3 Conceptual Framework

- a) **Vatican** is the centre of Roman Catholic Church. It manages all administrations and establishes every policy of Catholic religion in whole world. Vatican has its own jurisdiction which covers some extraterritorial areas within and outside Rome.
- b) **Dominance** is a situation in which one person or thing is more important or powerful than another. It also refers to higher position than another in a hierarchy opposition.
- c) **Illuminati** is a name of some sort of secret ancient brotherhood which means 'the enlightenment'. It is built by scientists from all over Europe who rebel the church doctrine.
- “...in the 1500s, a group of men in Rome fought back against the church. Some of Italy's most enlightened men-physicists, mathematicians, astronomers-began meeting secretly to share their concerns about the church's inaccurate teachings. They feared that the church's monopoly on 'truth' threatened academic enlightenment around the world. They founded the world's first scientific think tank, calling themselves 'the enlightened ones.’” (Brown, 2000: 37)
- d) **Angels & Demons Novel** is written by American writer Dan Brown. The novel introduces the character Robert Langdon, a symbologist from Harvard University as the main character. The story concerns a conflict between the Roman Catholic Church and a secret society known as the Illuminati.